

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks discussing patentability of rejected and newly added claims. Applicants respectfully request that the application be passed to issue.

Claims 1-40 were previously pending in the subject Application. Claim 41 is being added by way of this amendment. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-41 will be pending. No new matter was added to the application when amending or adding these claims.

Applicant are appreciative of the Examiner's review of the claims and allowance of claims 12 and 27.

Summary of an Embodiment of the Invention

Prior to discussion of the pending claims, Applicants would like to briefly discuss an illustrative embodiment of the present invention. One embodiment of the present invention, in contrast to conventional approaches, is directed to a technique for authenticating devices in a network such as a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Network between control stations and one or more transceivers. A transceiver receives transceiver configuration information including a network address and transceiver authentication credentials and receives an authentication request from the control station. The transceiver applies authentication processing to request information within the authentication request in conjunction with the transceiver authentication credentials to produce an authentication response and transmits the authentication response to the control station to allow the control station to determine if the transceiver is authorized to communicate within the remote identification system.

Objections to Claims 10 and 25

Applicant has amended claim 25 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Haverinen (U.S. Publication 2004/0208151A1). Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner's review of pending claim 1 and respectfully request further consideration.

The Examiner presumably likens the transceiver of the claimed invention with the terminal device of Haverinen. Additionally, the Examiner presumably likens the control station of the claimed invention to the access point in Haverinen. For example, paragraph 29 of Haverinen indicates that "the terminal receives an IP address from the DHCP server." Thus, Applicant concedes that at least this portion of claim 1 can be found in Haverinen.

However, Applicant submits that paragraph 29 further states "if the terminal is using open system authentication, it [the terminal] firsts sends the access point an authentication request message indicating open system authentication. The access point replies with an authentication response message." This is opposite to the limitations in the claimed invention, which recites that the transceiver receives the request message from the controller (which is likened to the access point).

Also, note that Haverinen at paragraph 46 recites "if the terminal is using the first authentication method, the message is preferably association request message [sic] according to IEEE 802.11i." Additionally, Haverinen at paragraph 46 recites "if the terminal is using the second authentication method, the message is preferably authentication request message [sic] according to IEEE 802.11." Thus, paragraph 46 of Haverinen further emphasizes that the terminal device sends the authentication request message, not the access point.

This technique in Haverinen is opposite to what Applicant claims as their invention. For example, claim 1 recites that the transceiver receives the network address. Further, claim 1 recites that the transceiver receives the authentication request. In Haverinen, the terminal (which was likened to the transceiver) sends the authentication request message. Accordingly, Haverinen does not disclose or suggest very claim limitation. Instead, Haverinen teaches away from the claimed invention because it describes a method of the terminal sending the authentication request, not receiving the authentication request from a remotely located controller (e.g., which was likened to the access point in Haverinen) as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, the claimed invention recites that the transceiver applies authentication processing to request information in the request message to produce an authentication response. Since the terminal in Haverinen generates the request message to the access point, it logically follows that the terminal in Haverinen does not apply authentication processing to the request information and respond to itself based on the request message. For example, paragraph 29 of Haverinen specifically indicates that “the access point replies with an authentication response message.” Thus, claim 1 is further distinguished over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection or pass claim 1 to issuance. Claims 2-12 and 33-40 depend from claim 1 and therefore also should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 includes similar limitations as claim 1 and should be allowable for similar reasons. Accordingly, claim 16 and corresponding dependent claims 17-27 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 13, 28, and 32 should be allowable for similar reasons as discussed above since they each recite “providing an authentication request” and “receiving an authentication response” as opposed to Haverinen which recites that the terminal performs such operations. Claims 14-15 and 29-30 depend

from respective claims 13 and 28 and therefore also should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 2

Applicant notes that the dependent include other distinguishing features over the cited prior art. For example, claim 2 recites that the transceiver receives a transceiver identification code as well as a transceiver instruction set containing values and corresponding authentication instruction. The Examiner indicates that paragraphs 29 and 46 of Haverinen recite such features. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the cited language does not recite such specific details of associated with authentication. The passage does recite that a terminal is assigned an IP address. However, this is not equivalent to the claim limitations of “receiving transceiver authentication credentials including receiving: i) a transceiver identification code uniquely assigned to the transceiver; and ii) a transceiver instruction set containing a set of authentication values and corresponding authentication instructions.”

Claim 3

Applicant notes that the dependent claim 3 includes distinguishing features over the cited prior art. For example, claim 3 recites a transceiver executing a step of “periodically receiving replacement transceiver authentication credentials to replace the transceiver authentication credentials formerly received by the transceiver.” The Examiner cites a passage merely indicating that the same authentication must be repeated after a specific period of time using the same credentials, not that credentials are periodically updated as recited by claim 3. Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the rejection and requests allowance of claim 3.

Claim 4

Applicant notes that dependent claim 4 includes distinguishing features over the cited prior art. For example, claim 4 recites that the authentication request includes: “i) an request authentication result; and

ii) a request data value;

wherein applying authentication processing to request information within the authentication request in conjunction with the transceiver authentication credentials to produce an authentication response comprises:

identifying an authentication instruction that matches the request authentication result; and

applying the authentication instruction that matches the request authentication result to the request data value from the authentication request to produce the authentication response.” The Examiner cites claims 10 and 14 as well as corresponding passages to reject this claim. First, cited claims and corresponding passages of Haverinen indicate that the access point performs such a function. Claim 4 recites that the transceiver executes such a function. Moreover, the cited functions in Haverinen are not equivalent to those in the claimed invention. For example, the transceiver performs a matching of an authentication result to an authentication instruction and uses the authentication instruction to produce an authentication response. There is no such matching function recited in Haverinen. Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the rejection and requests allowance of claim 4.

Claim 9

Applicant notes that dependent claim 9 includes “repeating the operations of receiving an authentication request, applying authentication processing and transmitting the authentication response and upon each repeated iteration of such operations, the authentication request specifies at least one of:

i) a different request authentication result for use by the transceiver to select an authentication instruction; and

ii) a different request data value for use by the transceiver during application of the selected authentication instruction.” The Examiner cites paragraphs 29 and 46 to reject this claim. First, the claimed invention indicates that the step of repeating occurs for a single transceiver. The cited passages recite a technique of authentication for a terminal device. Although Haverinen discloses repeating an authentication process periodically, Haverinen does not recite teach or suggest that an authentication request by access point specifies, upon each iteration, a different request authentication result for purposes of selecting authentication instruction. Nor do the cited passages teach or suggest that an authentication request by access point specifies, upon each iteration, a different request data value for use by the transceiver during application of the selected authentication instruction. The recited technique enables a transceiver to provide different unique responses back to a controller upon each subsequent authentication request for the same transceiver. There is no indication that a device in Haverinen supports such a process. Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the rejection and requests allowance of claim 9.

The other dependent claims include additional limitations not found in the cited references for similar reasons.

New Claim 41

Applicant has added claim 41, which further narrows claim 1 over the cited prior art. Support for these claims can be found (among other places) in Fig 1 and corresponding text of the application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims as well as newly added claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after reviewing this Response, that the pending claims are not in condition for allowance, the

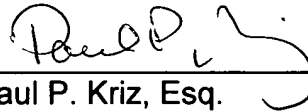
-24-

Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant(s) Representative at the number below.

If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned Attorney at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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